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GO WILD IN MIAMI
EXPLORE THE CITY'S NATURAL BEAUTY ON A JET-BOAT TOUR {page 19}

EXTRA DAY
AMY ADAMS ROM-COM CELEBRATES MAGIC OF LEAP YEAR {page 15}

CALGARY metro®

Wednesday, February 29, 2012
www.metronews.ca

News worth sharing.

Big. Act

▶ Hometown singer Feist, pictured here performing in Bryant Park in New York, will return to the city this summer.

PETER KRAMER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feist among Sled Island artists

The first batch of headline acts for this year's Sled Island Music & Arts Festival was announced Tuesday. Story, page 4.

'We are very sorry for what he did'

Family member of man believed to be responsible for Airdrie murder-suicide speaks out Autopsy results on both deceased expected to be released Wednesday

JEREMY NOLAIS
@METRONEWS.CA

Family members of an Airdrie bodybuilder believed by police to be responsible for a murder-suicide are grieving both their own loss and that of a single mother stabbed to death in her home, a relative said Tuesday.

The body of 33-year-old Andrea Conroy was found in her home north of Calgary on Friday night. It is believed she was stabbed to death by ex-boyfriend Rick Doucette, 41, who then killed himself in a Nanton motel over the weekend.

"We all miss him," said Doucette's uncle Lionel when reached at his home in Ontario. "We are very sorry for what he did. The woman he hurt is the most important part. That puts even more grief on us."

Lionel Doucette did plead with the public to refrain from criticizing his nephew's family. A Facebook page for the personal-training business run by his nephew has become the site of heated criticism in recent days, targeting not only the accused but also his upbringing.

"He was brought up very good," Lionel said, addressing the online posts specifically. "If anything, he was loved too much — he got everything in life."

Court documents reviewed by Metro show Rick Doucette had a history of violence, much of it involving female victims. He was convicted of attempted murder in 1998, after stabbing a girlfriend several times in Ontario.

Conroy became close with Doucette while the two worked together in Airdrie.

Conroy's family planned to meet with RCMP and issued a statement through them Tuesday.

"We are respectfully requesting privacy at this time, so that we can grieve, heal and come to terms with our loss," the statement reads. "Thank you for your support and understanding through this tragic time."

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Rick Doucette

Funeral preparations

- Andrea Conroy's funeral is being planned for Thursday in Swift Current, Sask., where she was originally from.
- Gold's Gym in Airdrie is currently accepting donations for Conroy's seven-year-old daughter and is also planning a silent auction. For more information, contact Tara Murphy at 403-990-4653.

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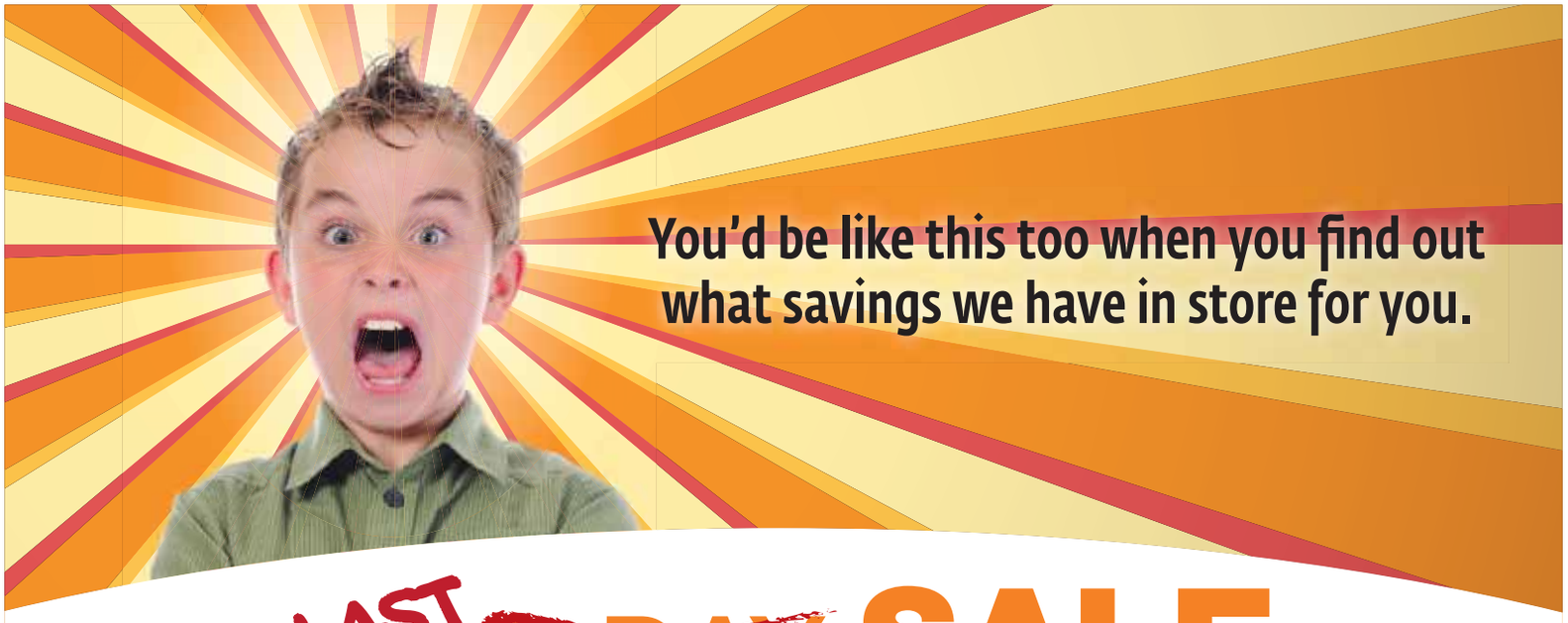

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P110403	2011	BUIC	LUCERNE	$40,925	$37,440	**$28,440**	$191.42
P110731	2011	BUIC	LUCERNE	$43,500	$39,660	**$30,660**	$206.36
P110790	2011	BUIC	ENCLAVE	$59,295	$54,054	**$46,054**	$309.98
C110749	2011	CHEV	IMPALA	$29,835	$27,452	**$19,999**	$134.61
C110761	2011	CHEV	IMPALA	$29,835	$27,452	**$19,999**	$134.61
C110648	2011	CHEV	IMPALA	$30,005	$27,598	**$20,145**	$135.59
C110772	2011	CHEV	IMPALA	$30,085	$27,667	**$20,214**	$136.05
C111940	2011	CHEV	CRUZE	$29,050	$26,383	**$23,983**	$161.42
C111074	2011	CHEV	CAMARO	$34,010	$31,147	**$26,147**	$175.99
C111915	2011	CHEV	EXPRESS	$34,575	$31,199	**$28,699**	$193.17
C111946	2011	CHEV	EQUINOX	$38,020	$35,320	**$31,820**	$214.17
C111947	2011	CHEV	EQUINOX	$38,020	$35,320	**$31,820**	$214.17
C110634	2011	CHEV	EXPRESS CARGO	$40,185	$36,079	**$33,579**	$226.01
P111190	2011	GMC	SIERRA	$28,920	$26,182	**$16,932**	$113.96
P111155	2011	GMC	SIERRA	$45,530	$40,845	**$30,595**	$205.93
P110748	2011	GMC	TERRAIN	$38,295	$35,502	**$32,002**	$215.40
P111279	2011	GMC	TERRAIN	$38,595	$35,846	**$32,346**	$217.71
P110920	2011	GMC	2500 PU 4WHL	$51,930	$46,435	**$38,435**	$258.70
P110607	2011	GMC	SIERRA	$53,035	$49,903	**$39,653**	$266.89

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Inquiry to probe wait-list jumping

Four days after Alberta Premier Alison Redford promised a sweeping probe into doctor bullying and political meddling in the health system, her health minister ordered up a panel with a much narrower scope.

Health Minister Fred Horne announced Tuesday he will ask for a judge-led independent inquiry to look at allegations that some patients were given preferential treatment to jump the queue on wait lists.

Broader allegations of systemic bullying of doctors and political interference will not be probed unless they specifically relate to the queue-jumping issue, he said.

When asked to explain the discrepancy, Horne said cabinet — including Redford — has since reviewed the Health Quality Council report that prompted the inquiry.

"The premier has delivered on her promise," Horne told a legislature news conference. "This is the decision of our government and cabinet."

He said it's time to move forward. "This is not about placing blame."

The announcement comes a week after the council delivered damning evidence of health-system breakdowns that began when the government reorganized it under one central board in 2008.

Opposition critics said the announcement was another broken promise from Redford.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

KATIE TURNER/METRO

▶ Calgary Cab Drivers' Association head Rajiv Kapil says drivers are under more pressure from customers and employers.

Drivers vouch for euro solution to cab crunch

Pressure on taxi system likely to increase with stiffened impaired-driving laws ◐ City has not formally licensed new vehicles in 25 years

JEREMY NOLAIS
@METRONEWS.CA

Cabbies are looking abroad to solve a perceived vehicle shortage in Calgary, pitching a system that would see dispatching decentralized and taxi stands installed citywide.

Rajiv Kapil, president of the Calgary Cab Drivers' Association, has drafted a letter to municipal- and provincial-government officials that supports a move towards the taxi system more commonly found in Europe, namely Germany.

It would require vehicle stands to be installed in communities across the city and each outfitted with a phone. When a customer calls in seeking a ride, they would be directed to the nearest taxi stand, where a driver would answer and arrange a meeting.

"It provides much better service," he said. "The city has said there is a lack of cabs and I am saying this is one way to fix that."

Kapil had yet to determine what kind of cost would be associated with such a system, and senior officials with local cab companies expressed little support for the move.

"That's not going to work here," said Roger Richard, president of Associated Cabs. "Who's going to sit at the stands and answer the phone? It doesn't work that way."

Kapil countered by saying any call directed to an unoccupied stand would be transferred to the nearest one that is occupied. He also believes installing more stands would reduce stress on drivers who struggle to find places to park.

Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart, who convinced city council late last year to support a pilot project that would add taxi licences at peak business hours and for special occasions, was pleased to see the industry responding to public pressure.

"If we don't find more efficiencies and a better way of delivering the service when citizens need it, then we will have to look at adding more licences," she said.

Parking plans

The city does currently allow taxis to park in front of unused fire hydrants downtown, as well as at late-night ride home stands located in front of popular venues.

Video leads to man's arrest in pub murder

Surveillance footage proved key in apprehending one suspect in a 2010 Calgary pub slaying, and police are confident two others wanted in the incident will be tracked down soon.

Dexter Bain, 36, was gunned down inside Our Place Pub & Grill, where he had been working both as a bartender and renovator, in the early-morning hours of Nov. 27, 2010.

Police announced Tuesday they have charged 25-year-old Kyle Victor Ledesma with second-degree murder.

As part of their investigation, investigators canvassed nearby businesses for surveillance footage and turned up some of the suspects at a nearby convenience store.

▶ Dexter Bain

"The surveillance did assist us.... We believe this was a targeted attack on the individuals in the pub," said homicide staff Sgt. Doug Andrus Tuesday.

Using the footage and information gathered during a recent Crime Stoppers reenactment, investigators have also identified a second suspect and are trying to find him.

A third suspect remains unidentified.

JEREMY NOLAIS

More info

- Police revealed Tuesday that murder victim Dexter Bain was also robbed by his killers.
- To view surveillance footage of the suspects in the Dexter Bain murder, head to metronews.ca/calgary

1 news

An upcoming Lady Gaga visit is spurring pressure on Harvard to confer posthumous degrees on students expelled for being gay or perceived as gay. Scan code for story.

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Arrest in scalding-water assault

RCMP in Brooks have arrested a 21-year-old woman in relation to an incident that sent a teenage girl to hospital with third-degree burns.

According to a release, around 10:30 on Monday evening, Brooks RCMP were called via a disturbance complaint to an apartment complex.

They discovered a 15-year-old female suffering burns on her legs resulting from a second female in the apartment pouring boiling hot water onto the victim while she was asleep.

Police say the two females had been involved in a verbal dispute earlier in the evening. The teenage girl is currently undergoing treatment at a Calgary hospital.

Charges of aggravated assault are pending against a 21-year-old woman from Brooks.

METRO

String of sex-related acts prompts police warning

JEREMY NOLAIS
@METRONEWS.CA

CALGARY POLICE

▶ The suspect in Sunday's incident

Several indecent acts targeting women in Calgary's southwest have police urging the public to remain vigilant.

The most jarring incident occurred Sunday: a woman waiting for a bus at 26 Avenue and 25 Street Southwest reported having been grabbed and pushed to the ground by an unidentified individual. She managed to fight off the attacker, who fled on foot.

"For people that are faced with any kind of situation like this, be aware of your surroundings, scream, follow your instincts and get information to us as soon as possible," advised police staff Sgt. Shawn Bowen.

Three other incidents on Feb. 17 and two on Feb. 24 were all similar in nature, Bowen added. In each, a man approached a female attempting to fondle her, exposed himself or, in some cases, masturbated in broad daylight. It is not clear whether the same individual is responsible for all six incidents, Bowen said, adding police are currently re-interviewing past victims to determine any possible connections.

The suspect in Sunday's incident is described as being 45-50 years old, clean-shaven with a thin build and messy, dark-grey hair.

Sled Island brings in top talent for 2012 show

Sled Island Music & Arts Festival runs June 20-23 at various venues

LISA WILTON
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA

LISA WILTON/FOR METRO

▶ Lindsay Shedden, director of the Sled Island Music & Arts Festival, says she's excited about this year's lineup.

A party king, a hometown hero and a couple of indie-rock icons are on tap for the 2012 edition of the Sled Island Music & Arts Festival.

Grammy-nominated former Calgarian Feist, recently reformed noise-rock band Archers of Loaf, Sonic Youth founder Thurston Moore, and the original party rocker, Andrew W.K., are among the highlights of this year's lineup.

Festival organizers announced eight headliners Tuesday afternoon at the Commonwealth Bar & Stage, one of Sled Island's new venues this year.

"We're really excited about the lineup so far," said festival director Lindsay Shedden.

In addition to musical acts, the festival will also feature four full days of comedy performances. The complete lineup will be unveiled May 1.

In the six years since its inception, the Sled Island Music & Arts Festival has positioned itself as one of the country's coolest musical events. And Shedden said the festival is determined to maintain its solid reputation.

"Sled Island came into its own really fast, so now we're trying to strengthen what we've built," Shedden said.

More info

- Other acts announced are Brooklyn-based rockers The Hold Steady, folk weirdos Timber Timbre, Pavement singer-guitarist Stephen Malkmus and his band, The Jicks, and Canadian electronic pop star Grimes.
- Passes are available through the Sled Island office at 2206a–4 Street S.W., or by calling 403-229-2901. Passes can also be purchased online at www.sledisland.com.
- This year's festival is curated by Andrew W.K. and Dan Vacon of The Dudes/Dojo Workhorse.

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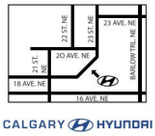

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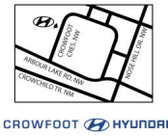

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Robocall probe leads to fake name

‘Pierre Poutine’ made calls to Edmonton-based RackNine, the Tory-linked firm at centre of scandal

Court documents show a cellphone in the robocalls affair was registered to Pierre Poutine of Separatist Street in Joliette, Que.

Elections Canada’s chief investigator says the clearly fake name was likely used to cover the tracks of whoever was behind misleading and harassing calls to voters in Guelph, Ont., in the last federal election.

Voters in Guelph reported getting calls from a phone number with a 450 area code directing them to the wrong polling station.

Elections Canada investigator Al Mathews obtained phone records showing the number behind the Guelph calls was the same one registered to “Pierre Poutine.”

The phone records also show the number registered to Pierre Poutine twice called Edmonton-based RackNine Inc., on April 30 and May 1.

The claims, which have not been proved in court, are laid out in an Information to Obtain a Production Order filed in an Edmonton court in November.

The records also show phones associated with Guelph Conservative candidate Marty Burke and the Guelph Conservative riding association made a total of 31 calls to RackNine between March 26 and early May.

RackNine has confirmed someone used its automated dialling service to make the phoney calls.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tory trouble

- The market-research industry’s watchdog is launching an investigation into a Tory pollster involved in an alleged misinformation campaign against Liberal MP Irwin Cotler.
- Campaign Research was behind a phone campaign last fall in Cotler’s Montreal riding, in which constituents complained they were falsely told their MP was about to or had resigned and that a byelection was imminent.

Report slams Tory crime bill

Restricting conditional sentences is going to cost the provinces and territories almost $140 million a year, produce fewer convictions and reduce the time offenders are under government supervision, says a report from the independent parliamentary budget officer.

The 97-page study is a detailed and devastating critique of just one small aspect of the massive Conservative omnibus crime bill that is currently before the Senate.

Not only does the report predict a massive, unreported cost to provincial and territorial treasuries, it raises serious questions about the policy’s effectiveness.

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson’s office did not directly dispute the report’s cost findings.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Peter Brouwer is co-founder of the Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies.

‘LEAP DAY SHOULD BE AN OFFICIAL CELEBRATION’

Today, Peter Brouwer is celebrating his 14th birthday. No, Brouwer isn’t a precocious teenager who has overachieved in life — he’s a 56-year-old man who only gets to celebrate his birthday every four years. The Vancouver resident, like some five million others across the globe, was born on Leap Day, Feb. 29.

Brouwer set up the Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies so that “leapers” could “share their different experiences,” and, in some cases, the frustration caused by the whimsical date.

“This day celebrates the fact that our seasons can arrive on time and in sync every year,” Brouwer says. “The irony is that leap day is, yes, a chronological anomaly, but one that makes our calendar orderly. We should celebrate this.” ANTHONY JOHNSTON/METRO WORLD NEWS

Shooting suspect’s victims random

The teenage suspect in a school shooting that killed three students and wounded two didn’t know his victims and chose them randomly, a prosecutor said Tuesday.

Suspect T.J. Lane, 17, admitted firing 10 shots with a .22-calibre pistol Monday morning at Chardon High School in Ohio, county prosecutor David Joyce said at a juvenile court hearing.

The hearing came hours after the death toll rose to three, and as schoolmates and townspeople grappled with the tragedy and wondered what could have set the gunman off.

Lane’s face twitched lightly while the prosecutor recounted the attack, and he sniffled and half-closed his eyes as he walked out of the room with deputies.

Lane’s custodial grandfather and two aunts joined him in court; the women reached over and lightly embraced the grandfather as the hearing began.

Judge Timothy Grendell ordered the boy, who is considered a juvenile, held for at least the next 15 days. Prosecutors have until March 1 to charge him.

The judge imposed a gag order on opposing attorneys at the prosecutor’s request and told the media not to photograph the boy’s face in court.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARK DUNCAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ SWAT members leave Chardon High School in Ohio after a student opened fire inside the cafeteria on Monday.

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CANADIANS ABOARD

Disabled cruise ship gets food

Helicopters ferried food and flashlights to more than 1,000 people, including 14 Canadians, stuck aboard a disabled cruise ship.

The Costa Allegra was being towed to the Seychelles Islands on Tuesday through waters prowled by pirates.

Officials said the Costa Allegra could reach the Seychelles island of Mahe by late Wednesday or early Thursday.

The ship lost power Monday after a fire in its generator room knocked out the engines, lights and air conditioning.

The drama comes six weeks after sister ship Costa Concordia hit a reef and capsized off Italy, killing 25 people and leaving seven missing and presumed dead.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

9-11 remains sent to landfill: Pentagon

The Pentagon said Tuesday partial, incinerated remains of some Sept. 11 victims that could not be identified were sent to a landfill.

The remains were of some of those killed when a hijacked plane struck the Pentagon, killing 184, and another crashed in a field in Pennsylvania, killing 40, in the 2001 attacks.

The Pentagon released the report by an independent committee that was asked to examine practices at the military's mortuary at Dover, Delaware.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syria's envoy makes fast exit

He denounces a planned UN resolution as 'malicious and prejudiced' Then he stormed out of meeting room

First, he delivered a fiery speech that accused the United Nations Human Rights Council of promoting terrorism in Syria and prolonging the nation's bloodshed.

Then he stormed out of the emergency UN meeting in Geneva.

All of which earned Fayssal al-Hamwi, Syria's ambassador to the UN in Geneva, a tongue-lashing.

The United States said he demonstrated the "delusional" nature of President Bashar Assad's regime.

"I think it's a reflection to some extent of what's going on with the Assad regime itself, holding a referendum that is farcical and a mockery of democratic processes when they're in the midst of a humanitarian crisis of their own creation," said Eileen Chamberlain Donahoe, the U.S. representative to the 47-nation council.

"Anybody who heard the Syrian ambassador should be aware that his comments were borderline out of touch with reality."

EILEEN CHAMBERLAIN DONAHOE, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

The global body now says more than 7,500 people have died in Syria's turmoil since March. Reports say 100 civilians are dying daily.

Al-Hamwi told delegates: "We are convinced the real aim behind holding this session today is to cover up for the violence and murder perpetrated by the armed groups against innocent civilians."

He added: "We are not pretending that the human rights situation in Syria is perfect."

Then he said his delegation would withdraw from "this sterile discussion."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Perish the thought, but 'doomsday vault' may save world in crisis

Chickpeas, fava beans and other seeds from a facility in strife-torn Syria are among 25,000 new samples being deposited this week in an Arctic seed vault built to protect food crops from wars and natural disasters.

The latest additions mean that the Svalbard Global Seed Vault — a master backup to the world's other seed banks — has now secured more than 740,000 samples since it opened in a remote Norwegian archipelago in 2008.

That represents an estimated three-quarters of the biological diversity of the world's major food crops, said Cary Fowler, executive director of the trust that maintains the vault with Norway's government and the Nordic Genetic Resources Centre.

With the shipment from the Syria facility, almost its entire collection is now backed up in Svalbard, Fowler said.

"I think the events unfolding in Syria obviously underline the importance of having safety duplication outside of a country."

Fowler noted that wars destroyed seed banks in Iraq and Afghanistan.

One in Egypt was looted during last year's uprising.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Impregnable?

- The Svalbard Global Seed Vault — called a doomsday vault — is designed to withstand global warming, earthquakes and even nuclear strikes.

RODRIGO ABD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The victims can only marvel at the debris. Their house in Sarmin, Syria, was destroyed in clashes between the Free Syrian Army and President Bashar Assad's forces on Tuesday. Residents say at least 14 people were killed.

Tunisia to offer Assad asylum?

Tunisia's president says he's ready to offer asylum to Syria's leader, Bashar Assad, in a bid to end the Syrian bloodshed.

President Moncef Marzouki told a local paper the offer would also extend to Assad's associates.

Marzouki's interview was set to appear Wednesday in the French-language daily La Presse.

Tunisia would be a surprising choice for Assad's retirement as it was the first Arab nation to topple a longtime autocrat.

Its former president fled the country a year ago amid nationwide protests.

Meanwhile, Syrian rebels smuggled a wounded British journalist out of the besieged Syrian city of Homs and whisked him to safety in Lebanon Tuesday, activist groups said.

Thirteen Syrians who were trying to help rescue Paul Conroy and other trapped western reporters were killed in the operation, according to one group.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taking the lead

HASSENE DRIDI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Marzouki

- Tunisia was the first country to recall its ambassador from Syria in protest of the violence.
- It also hosted an international conference Friday that called for an immediate ceasefire and the delivery of humanitarian aid to the country.

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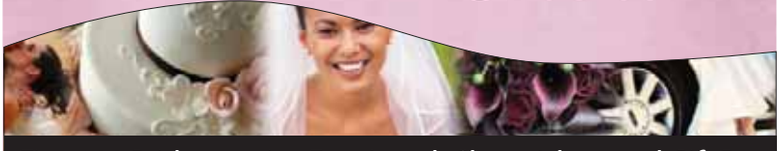

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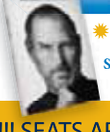

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Google policy might violate EU data rules

Commission also examining whether Google uses its dominance to stop others from entering the EU market

Google's new privacy policy appears to violate the European Union's data-protection rules, France's regulator said Tuesday, just two days before the new guidelines are set to come into force.

Google announced its new privacy policy with much fanfare last month. The rules, which are set to come into force on Thursday, regulate how the web giant uses the enormous amounts of personal data it collects through its search engine, email and other services.

However, the EU's data-protection authorities are concerned about the privacy effects of the policy and earlier this month asked French regulator CNIL to investigate them.

"Our preliminary analysis shows that Google's new policy does not meet the requirements of the European Directive on Data Protection," CNIL said in a letter to Google chief executive Larry Page.

The agency said Google's explanation of how it will use the data was too vague and difficult to understand "even for trained privacy professionals"

Google argues that combining the data into one profile also makes search results more relevant and allows a user to cross-navigate between different services more easily.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. TUESDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas	Gold
+ 40.01 (12,740.47)	+ 0.38¢ (100.46¢ US)	- $2.01 US ($106.55 US)	$2.519 US (- 8.4¢ US)	$1,788.40 US (+ $13.50 US)

Picture. Screen

▶ A man walks past an advertisement for Apple's iPad 2 on Tuesday in Shanghai.

EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple invite continues tablet tease

Apple is inviting reporters to an event next Wednesday in San Francisco. An image on the invite showing part of an iPad screen suggests the company will announce a new model. Unconfirmed reports have speculated a sharper screen and faster cellular broadband options could be part of the next model.

Job prospects remain weak: Report

The Conference Board's forward-looking indicator on labour markets suggests job growth will continue to be modest in the upcoming months.

The think tank's help-wanted index for February shows a mixed climate for job seekers.

Prospects appear stronger in the West, but weak throughout much of Ontario.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Microsoft to preview Windows 8 software

PAUL J. RICHARDS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Microsoft chairman Bill Gates

Since Microsoft released its Windows operating system in 1985, most of the sequels have been variations on the same theme. Regardless of the software's quality, Microsoft managed to remain at the centre of the personal computing universe.

The stakes are much different as the company puts the finishing touches on Windows 8 — perhaps the most important piece of software the company has designed since co-founder Bill Gates won the contract to build the first operating system for IBM's personal computer in the early 1980s.

A beta version of the revamped operating system will be unveiled Wednesday in Barcelona, nudging Windows 8 a step closer to its anticipated mass market release in the fall. It's the most extensive look at Windows 8 since Microsoft released an early version of the system to developers five months ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greece passes new cuts

Greece's parliament late on Tuesday approved new cuts in public sector pensions and government spending required to secure a second package of international rescue loans.

Lawmakers voted 202-80 in favour of cutbacks worth a total $4.31 billion US and aimed at bringing the 2012 budget back in line with targets.

Earlier, the debt-crippled country's cabinet decided to apply recent labour reforms, including extensive cuts to the minimum wage, retroactively to Feb. 14.

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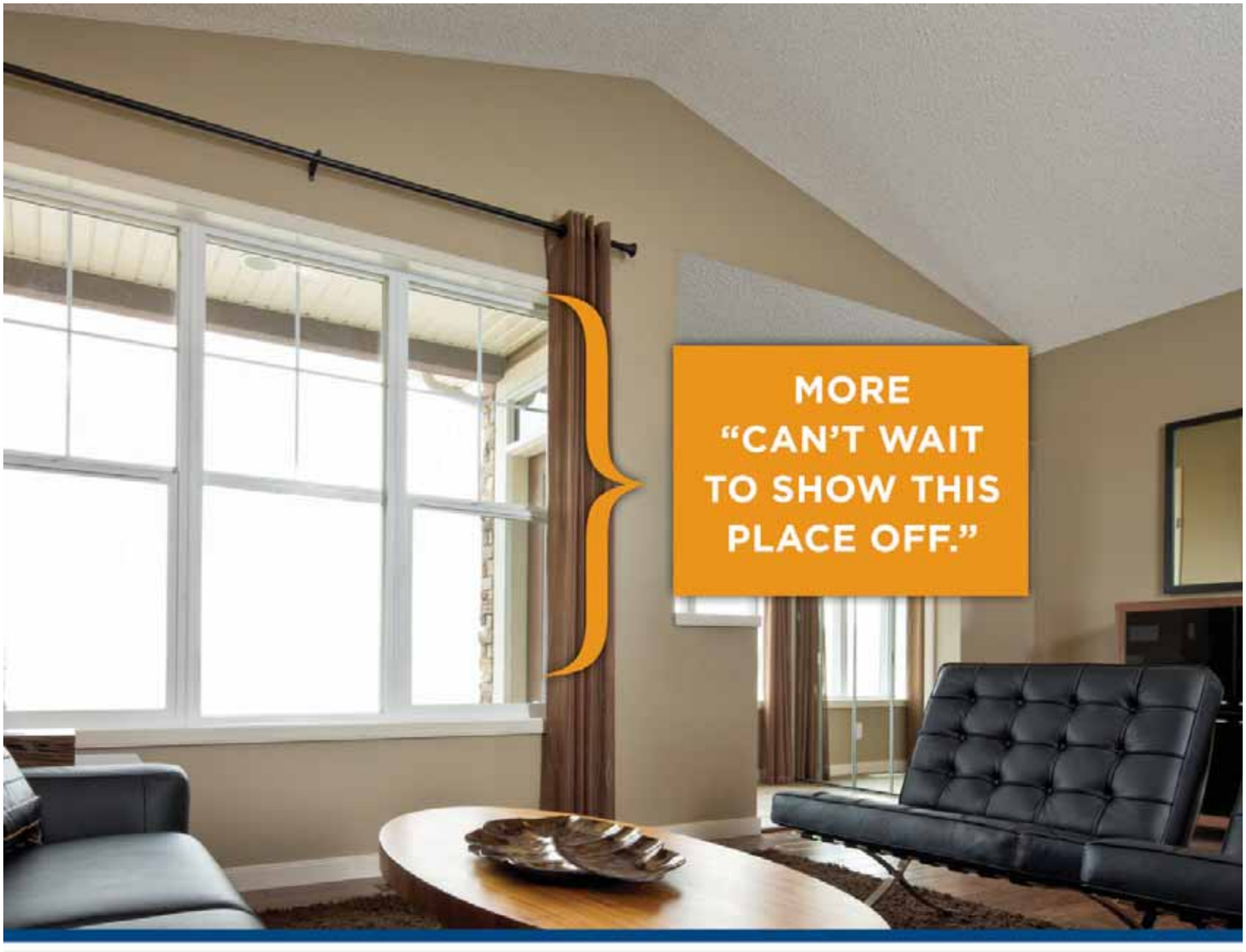

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IF YOU HAVE EVER QUESTIONED THE TERM 'DOWNWARD DOG,' READ ON

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

It's generally thought that things beginning in "yog" are good for you.

Like "yogurt" and "yoga" and "Yogi" (Berra, Bear, etc.).

But, it turns out, that's not always the case.

Yoga, for example, lost one of its shining stars recently as yogi John Friend, the founder of Anusara yoga — a kind of feel-good, hang-loose variation on the theme — resigned amid accusations that he felt too good and hung too loose.

Friend, the accusations go, wanted to be more than friends with an unusually large number of his female adherents, ran Wiccan covens featuring a variety of sexual activities, kept employees busy scoring marijuana on his behalf, and at one point even froze his employees' pensions.

"They may have to build a new wing onto The Bad Yogi Hall of Shame to shoehorn John Friend in with fellow philanderers ..."

So much for Mr. Nice Yogi.

The yoga community has been rocked and shocked by this scandal, and more than 50 Anusara teachers have rolled up their mats and left the ashram. But as a number of astute commentators have noticed, this is hardly the first time some guru has stepped out of line. They may have to build a new wing onto The Bad Yogi Hall of Shame to shoehorn John Friend in with fellow philanderers Swami Muktananda, Swami Satchidananda, Swami Amrit Desai and Swami Rama.

The problem may be that yoga (unlike yogurt) is inherently sexy. Hatha yoga, the form most practised around the world, started as a branch of Tantra, which is all about seeking spiritual bliss through sex. The movement to make it safe for a general audience didn't really take hold until the 20th century, so the sex is just under the surface, which should be obvious whenever you find yourself in the "downward dog" pose.

According to a usually reliable source — the New York Times — there is scientific evidence that yoga is inherently sexy. It causes an increase in testosterone (the guru sex hormone), sexy brain waves, and yoga's fast-breathing practice can increase blood flow through the genitals. Like Viagra.

At Rutgers University, researchers have found that yoga can be an effective form of mental masturbation, leading to spontaneous orgasm, or "thinking off." Don't try that with yogurt. (It doesn't work.)

So the real surprise is that there aren't more yoga-based shenanigans. The real surprise, considering the evidence, is that anyone is surprised. Add the power imbalance that often goes with these guru-groupie situations, and you have a surefire recipe for scandal.

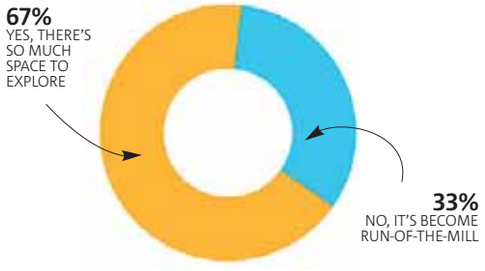
Of course, millions of people who practise yoga and eat yogurt aren't looking for kicks. They just want improved flexibility and digestion.

Sex with the guru improves neither.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Are you excited by the finding of new planets?



Local tweets

- **@BluHrGirl:** So this mornings commute I counted 61 cyclist before 7:45am. Wonder what ride home will net! Way to go #yyc #yycbike
- **@BRYONL:** Radio in calgary sucks. Regret letting my ipod die #yyc
- **@Tricia_Bennett:** I liked the hybrid taxi I had to the airport today. #yyc
- **@EmmaJustine5:** i just drove by a sign with balloons tied all over it that read "SONS OF ANARCHY CLOTHING" hahahahah sooo lame #yyc
- **@LadyMeesh:** Lovely, a pervert peeping tom assulting women in my neighborhood #yyc #mardaloop ladies be aware! #swcalgary
- **@FavBrownie:** Like I said before, 25 is always 10mins or more late. @calgarytransit #yyc
- **@Burns__Mike:** .....oh the trials & tribulations of drinking at the airport. #firstworldproblems (this is barely first world) #yyc
- **@britneyryberg:** Wish #yyc had an #ihop #freepancakes #nationalpancakeday

Daily Zoom

LONDON NEWS PICTURES/REX FEATURES

London unoccupied

Occupy London camp removed

LONDON. A time for contemplation and reflection? A supporter of anti-capitalist movement Occupy London meditated in the remains of a partially dismantled tent in London on Tuesday morning. After being camped outside St. Paul's Cathedral for more than four months, demonstrators were evicted by police and bailiffs.

MWN

"The relationships forged during these strange and beautiful four and a half months still have much further to run. This is only the beginning."

STATEMENT FROM WEBSITE OF OCCUPY THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

Britain's protests

- **November 2010:** 55,000 students demonstrate over tuition fees.
- **December 2010:** Protesters target state buildings and damage a car carrying Prince Charles.
- **August 2011:** More than 2,800 people are arrested after a protest over a fatal shooting by police prompted rioting.
- **November 2011:** Occupy movement set up.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Occupy London activist

metro
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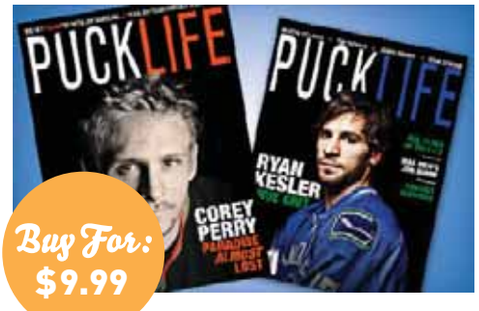

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Films that take a leap

It's not every year we get an extra day to play Some filmmakers have based their movies around the magical Feb. 29 — telling leap year tales of love, ennui and ghosts

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

You may not be aware of this, but we're living in a bissextile year. What does that mean? Well, it means today's date, Feb. 29, didn't exist last year. Or the year before that. In fact, you have to flip the calendar back to 2008 to find the last time February had 29 days.

But how to celebrate the year's extra day? If you are Ja Rule, Antonio Sabato Jr., or Tony Robbins, all leap year babies, you could throw yourself a birthday party, but if not, why not rent or download (legally of course!) a movie about those rare years with 366 days?

The Amy Adams rom-com Leap Year is based on an old Irish legend that says that women can propose to men, but only on Feb. 29. She travels to Ireland to ask for her longtime beau's hand, only to get sidetracked in Wales by a tall handsome stranger played by Matthew Goode.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Amy Adams stars opposite Matthew Goode in Leap Year, a rom-com about an American who travels to Ireland to propose to her longtime beau on Feb. 29.

You can likely guess the rest (and if you can't you need to go to romantic comedy school and learn how this works) but the proposal Amy finally gives is much different than the one she originally intended.

Also on the romantic side is The Leap Years, a Chinese film about a woman who meets her lover once every four years on, you guessed it, Feb. 29.

The main character, Li-Ann, is played by three actresses. Beatrice Chia handles all the narration, Wong Li-lin ushers her through her 20s with Joan Chen playing her in middle age.

Rounding out our look at leap year movies are two films with nothing whatsoever to do with romance.

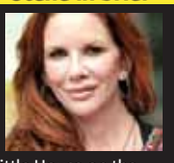
The strange and disturbing Ano Bisiesto was the first Mexican film to win the Camera D'Or award at the Cannes Film Festival. The story of a lonely woman (Monica del Carmen) who marks off the days on a calendar as she reveals her true self to her lover was called "a blind leap into the void of arthouse cinema du extreme, South of the Border division" by Time Out but is also a deeply felt psychological drama.

On the scary side is The Curse of February 29, a Korean horror film about a blood stained bus ticket, a vengeful ghost and a leap year murder.

Leap years at the movies offers something for everyone — love, ennui and even ghosts!

2 scene

Scene in brief



Little House on the Prairie actress Melissa Gilbert, singer Gladys Knight and NFL player Donald Driver will be among the 12 celebrity contestants on the next season of Dancing With the Stars.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Meryl Streep donates $10K to school on behalf of hometown star Viola Davis

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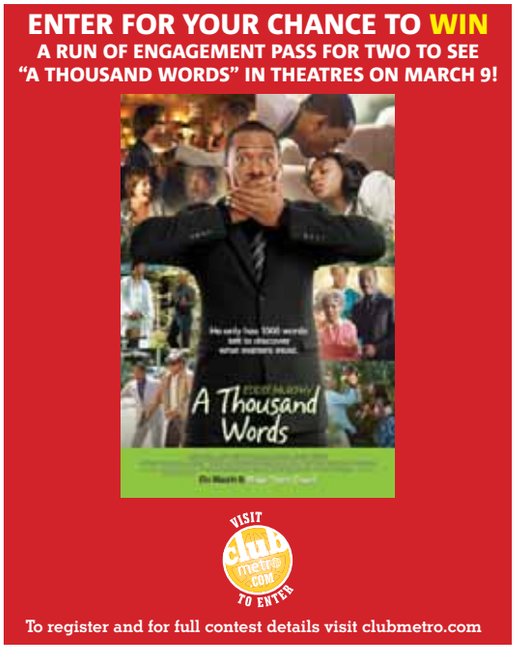
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Portman married in secret to Millepied

Their jeweller confirms the pair had wedding bands made following Oscars

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

MONICA WEYMOUTH
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Natalie Portman is married — and didn't invite us

After showing up to the Academy Awards sporting suspicious rings, it seems that Natalie Portman and Benjamin Millepied did, indeed, get married without telling us.

Jeweler Jamie Wolf confirms that the couple — who met on the set of Black Swan and have a son together — created the wedding bands.

"I designed the rings worn by Benjamin Millepied and Natalie Portman. They were made with recycled platinum and conflict-free diamonds."
JEWELER JAMIE WOLF

"I designed the rings worn by Benjamin Millepied and Natalie Portman," Wolf told UsMagazine.com.

"They were made with recycled platinum and conflict-free diamonds."

Their eco-friendly jeweler leaked the news?

This, friends, is what we call a rich people problem.

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HEART & STROKE FOUNDATION

▶ Natalie Portman

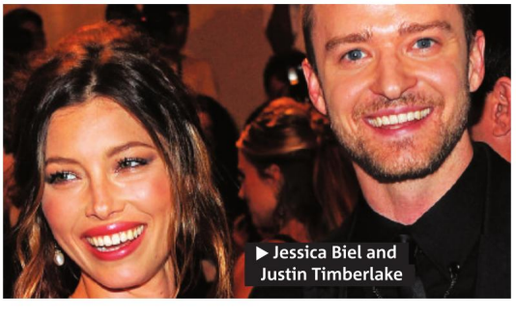
Biel, Timberlake engaged?

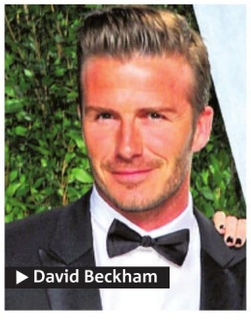
Jessica Biel and Justin Timberlake are trying to keep their engagement quiet, but the senior citizens in their lives aren't really helping.

First, Timberlake's grandmother spilled the beans about the singer's proposal, and now Biel's New Year's Eve director, Garry Marshall, is gushing about their renewed romance.

"We talk about it a lot. I hope it all works out. They are terrific kids."
NEW YEAR'S EVE DIRECTOR GARRY MARSHALL

"We talk about it a lot. I hope it all works out. They are terrific kids," Marshall tells Us Weekly. "I love them both. I'm happy for her." METRO


▶ Jessica Biel and Justin Timberlake


▶ David Beckham

Becks still after more kids

David and Victoria Beckham may be adjusting to having a fourth child with 7-month-old daughter Harper, but that doesn't mean they're necessarily done procreating.

"We might have one more or two more, you never know," David says, according to Hollyscoop.

"We might have one more or two more..."
DAVID BECKHAM

"We're not thinking about it yet, but if it happens, great. We're enjoying the kids as it is. It's always a thought."

And Victoria, who has complained recently about being exhausted from work and having a newborn, is still up for more.

"I'm not against having more children. I feel lucky having the kids I have and I guess I do like being pregnant," she says. "But definitely not just yet." METRO

Talking points

Paltrow pegs Blue Ivy Carter as a performer

GWYNETH IS CLEARLY A PSYCHIC While Blue Ivy Carter is just seven weeks old, some of the adults in her life already have a career picked out for her.

"She is going to be an entertainer," Gwyneth Paltrow, who is pals with parents Beyoncé Knowles and Jay-Z, tells Hollywood Life. "She just has this glow around her like her mother. She's stunning. She has the most beautiful eyes." METRO

Sean Young booted from Governor's Ball

RELIVING PAST GLORIES. Blade Runner and Ace Ventura: Pet Detective star Sean Young was arrested after trying to sneak into the post-Oscars Governor's Ball Sunday night, according to TMZ.

The actress, who recently appeared on Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew, made it into the party initially and hobnobbed with the likes of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie before being asked to leave, as she didn't have a ticket for the event. Sources say she then tried to get back into the party, leading to an altercation with security personnel. Young was booked on a misdemeanor battery charge. METRO

Uma Thurman pregnant again

ADDING TO THE FLOCK Uma Thurman is expecting a baby with financier Arpad Busson, her rep confirms to People magazine.

And while the actress wasn't necessarily ready to talk about her pregnancy, her friends were more than happy to.

"Yes, Uma is pregnant," a Thurman pal tells Life & Style.

"She hasn't announced it yet, but a lot of her friends were asking her, because they could tell the difference when they saw her at New York Fashion Week. She's usually so skinny, but now she has the cutest little bump and a glow about her."

Thurman also has two children with ex-husband Ethan Hawke. METRO

Celebrity tweets

@missjudygreer
"Turns out I married a man who knows every word to every Neil Diamond song ever. This wasn't mentioned in the courting process."

@RealMattLucas
"You'll chuckle at this. I just took a shower and I actually did at one point drop the soap."

@MissKelly0
"random question what can i do to get rid of puffy eyes from crying? there is no way i am putting hemroid cream on my eyes!"

@SteveMartinToGo
"Still getting dressed for Oscars."

▶ Berlin Cathedral

4 great getaways

1 Berlin, Germany

Always on affordable travel lists, Berlin remains high because, this summer, the new Berlin Bradenburg Airport opens — and you may be able to find promotional flights there. After arriving, you'll find yourself in the East Village of New York, circa 1970s: the punk rockers are actually punk rockers, and the art is bold. By day, take in the history—you can walk along the Berlin Wall, or visit the Berlin Cathedral. By night, relive your techno glory days at places like Berghain/Panorama Bar, one of the best in all of Europe.

2 Nashville, Tenn.

Downtown Nashville is walkable (saving you transportation costs) and hotels are usually under $100 a night. That means you'll have more money to spend on entertainment. This is the place to see the big names (like Willie Nelson) or small ones, at venues such as Mercy Lounge (on hopping Cannery Row). There's usually a festival going on, too.

▶ Nashville

3 Paris, France

You already want to go. So go in August. The entire place clears out, and you'll find cheaper hotels, empty cafes and less queueing at museums. According to Woody Allen, walking around at midnight is fun, too.

▶ Paris

4 Costa Rica

Also known as "the holiday Americans take when they cannot afford Hawaii or the Bahamas," Costa Rica offers adventure without risk. Most locals speak English. It's close to the States. And everything from renting a car to booking a hotel costs far less than neighbouring islands. Yet you still come home with a tan. Check out visitcostarica.com to start planning today.

SAM CASTONE, METRO WORLD NEWS

3 life

Travel in brief

Organizers of a weeklong celebration of Ontario's burgeoning craft beer industry are hoping to attract visitors from outside the province to partake in the suds-soaked events. Hosted by 29 breweries, the third annual Ontario Craft Beer Week is planning hundreds of beer-themed activities across Ontario. The festival launches on Father's Day, running from June 17 to 23.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Don't be crooked, b'y: Dictionaries, phone app translate Newfoundland lingo

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Two days in Istanbul

This Turkish city, with a combination of rich history and happening culture, spread over oriental and occidental continents, makes a great weekend. But it's so vast, where do you start?

EMMA E. FORREST
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

THINKSTOCK

▶ Outside the Blue Mosque

▶ Delight. Full.

Within hours of arriving in Istanbul for your weekend break, you'll be planning your return. It's impossible not to be instantly captivated by this majestic, exotic, history-soaked city — but its size is overwhelming.

Istanbul sprawls between Europe and Asia, split into three by the Bosphorus River, the Golden Horn and the Sea of Marmara. Fortunately, most of the best sights are within walking distance of each other and can be seen within a two-days break.

A great way of getting a feel for Istanbul is to hop on a ferry along the Bosphorus River.

The local ferries from Eminonu are cheaper and more fun than the tourist tours, heaving with families, hawkers and Turkish tea-sellers and followed by gangs of shrieking seagulls as they glide round the Golden Horn and up the Bosphorus. This whistle-stop tour of the city, allowing passengers to gawp at the series of luxury hotels' waterfront terraces in Taksim, the sumptuous Dolmabahce Palace and the historic homes of Bebek, then back past the palaces on the Asian side. The sight of the sun setting over the vast domes and forest of minarets of Sultanahmet on the return journey is truly magical.

The grand scale and opulence of the most iconic buildings speaks volumes about the emperors and sultans that built them. The Topkapi Palace, an Ottoman Palace that was home to the sultans from the 15th to 19th century, is a feast for the eyes, with room upon room adorned with blue and white tiling, and displays featuring an emerald the size of a fist, a solid gold cot and even the sultans' voluminous pants. The sultans used to break fast during Ramadan beneath the golden Iftar Canopy in the Fourth Canopy; nowadays it offers visitors sensational views over the city where the waters meet, and a spot for the perfect snapshot.

Next door, the Blue Mosque with its dazzling blue and white Iznik tiling and the vast domed Byzantine church Hagia Sophia, with its golden mosaics so perfect you have to inspect them up close to confirm they're not painted, are just as impressive. Less visually-arresting from the outside are the Basilica Cisterns, the awesome underground reservoir which once kept the city supplied with water. Nowadays fat fish shimmer in the water within the 366 huge columns, one of which rests upon an upside-down head of Medusa.

There's more fish down at Galata Bridge, either on your plate at one of the restaurants beneath the bridge or in a mackerel roll from one of the neon-lit boats bobbing at the waterfront in Eminonu.

It's one of Istanbul's tastiest street-foods, and one of the best — and cheapest — ways of dining with a great view of the city.

Quick tips

STAY

- **Avicenna Hotel** This friendly hotel in a restored 19th century wooden house offers cosy rooms, copious breakfasts, a rooftop bar, and is just steps away from the Blue Mosque. It's at the bottom of the colourful road that leads down from the Blue Mosque's elegant Arasta Bazaar, a welcome alternative to the crowded Grand Bazaar. avicennahotel.com

SHOP

- The famous Grand Bazaar, a warren of more than 4,000 shops, has alleyways dedicated to silver jewelry, antiques, stained-glass lanterns, carpets and evil eye-adorned souvenirs. But in a way, the roads outside the Bazaar's gates that weave down toward the Spice Bazaar are far more atmospheric, packed with locals window-shopping for heavily-sequinned ballgowns and inexpensive pashminas. Finish the day off with a Turkish delight, or freshly-squeezed orange juice from a stand.

3 PLACES TO SPEND YOUR EXTRA DAY

BEYGOLU

- Hop on a tram across the Galata Bridge to get a glimpse into real-life modern-day Istanbul, in Beygolu, home to some of the fanciest shops, clubs and restaurants. Browse the alternative shops on the cobbled Galip Dede Caddesi.

EMMA E. FORREST

DOLMABAHCE

- Along the waterfront from Beyoglu are the elegant 19th century mansions built by the sultans after abandoning Topkapi. These include Dolmabahce, the last residence of Ataturk, the city's hero who led the country to independence in 1922.

THINKSTOCK

PRINCES' ISLANDS

- Locals escape the crowds during the summer at the nearby Princes' Islands, a series of islands just an hour's ferry ride away in the Sea of Marmara. These car-free islands offer a holiday within a holiday, with beaches, horse and carriage rides and fish restaurants.

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Miami's other 'wild' side

The Travellin' Canadian finds out there's more to Miami than just the night life and beaches

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

It turns out there's a little more to Miami than all night parties on south beach and endless days of baking in the sun. During my recent whirlwind jaunt to this sun drenched paradise, I found there is a way to slow the pace just long enough to smell the roses, and avoid those 'Sobe' hangovers. One of the surprising highlights of my visit turned out to be one of those tourist-trap style, stereotypical boat tours of Biscayne Bay.

It was just after arriving at the Miami Marina, I experienced one the coolest up close wildlife encounters ever. Now, I've been lucky enough to get up close with some strange creatures over the years, from web-toed platypuses in Australia, to giant Orangutans in Borneo, but even they were no more impressive than what greeted me right here in the wilds of downtown Miami, no less.

There they were ... milling around the docks ... a real live pair of giant, endangered and very blubbery Manatees. These gentle giants were just lazily floating on the surface, surrounded by downtown skyscrapers.

It was a bit strange to see them out of their natural habitat, as tourists flocked around them taking pictures.

My jet boat tour courtesy of Ocean Front adventures turned out to be no less impressive. Dolphins skipped alongside our boat as we passed a strange mix of natural east coast sea life in front of a collection of multimillion dollar mansions.

It was a bit weird to behold all this natural beauty as we roared by the waterfront of palaces of celebrities such as Rosie O'Donnell and Madonna, but hey, that's what Miami is all about.

Back on dry land, I chose gentler Coconut Grove over wild and crazy south beach, and was glad I did. The vibe in the "Grove" is decidedly more mellow and relaxed, with tons of laid back watering holes filled with friendly locals. Of course I needed to soak up those suds with some great food, and the funky Peacock Garden Café was just the ticket.

There's nothing like a great steak under the stars in the middle of winter. At the end of it all I felt as content as those blubbery manatees.

Southern fun

- **Do the South Beach strip:** It's an impressive display of trendy art deco bars and hotels, and tons of crazy partiers dancing on tables and paying high drink prices.
- **Visit the Florida keys:** Rent a car and journey down to stunning Key West. Nothing like digging into a piece of Key Lime pie at the southern most tip of the US.

DARREN PARKMAN/METRO NEWS

▶ Boat tours are a great way to see the more 'natural' side of Miami.

DARREN PARKMAN/METRO NEWS

▶ Manatees in the 'wilds' of Miami.

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When the chief has changed

You've settled into your role at work when suddenly there's a switch in management Here's how to start over

CHELSEA NEWTON
TALENTEGG.CA

Many students and recent grads look to their managers to set the tone for their current and future working relationships.

There is comfort in having worked for a manager for a period of time — they know the way you think, they trust in your abilities, and they know the best way to coach you.

So how do you start all over again when you get a new manager?

It's a scary time, but also a great opportunity to grow your skills and be challenged by a new perspective.

It's very important for student and entry-level employees to be open, build credibility, and want the new reporting line to work.

ISTOCK

▶ Your new boss will likely lead your team in a different way as the last. Embrace this new environment.

Here are some tips if you have a new manager.

1 **Come in open minded** Your new manager is likely to operate differently than the last, so you should seek to understand their perspective. Don't make snap judgments.

2 **Ask questions** This is tied to not making quick decisions or judgments. Ask questions to seek understanding about changes your new manager is making if they aren't giving you the rationale or background.

3 **Deliver results** Delivering results with a great attitude is the best way to build your personal credibility with a new manager.

4 **Be open and transparent** Open conversation and transparency will work well on both sides to create a strong working relationship right from the get-go. Good luck!

the transition

If possible, speak with your current manager about the transition they are completing with your new manager before it takes place.

If you had an open relationship with your previous manager, you can help shape this discussion by highlighting key things that really work in your current relationship.

If your current manager is unable to have a transition with your new manager, take matters into your own hands. Put together a "get to know me" email with your job description, org chart of your team (if applicable), previous performance review, and current targets and goals. Book a meeting with your new manager to get to know each other, walk through your current work load and review your goals.

CHELSEA NEWTON IS THE DIRECTOR OF TALENT ACQUISITION AT MOSAIC SALES SOLUTIONS. HER EXPERTISE IS IN HIRING YOUNG ADULTS AND SHE HAS BUILT CAMPUS RECRUITING PROGRAMS IN OVER 12 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, CHINA AND RUSSIA.

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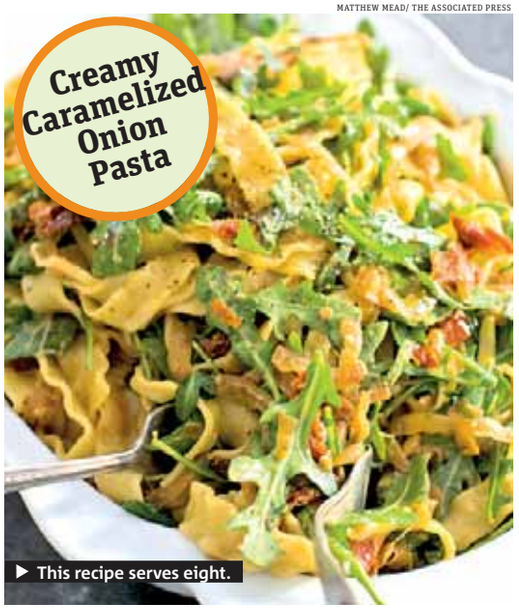
Pasta: The next generation

- Put aside granny's traditional meatballs and sauce and try this unique take on a favourite comfort dish
- The caramelized onions in this pasta are slow cooked

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ This recipe serves eight.

A common complaint about slow cooker recipes is that too many of them require either too much planning or too much prepping (and sometimes cooking) of ingredients before they go into the cooker. Busy people want recipes that let them dump stuff in, then walk away and forget about it until dinner.

That's where this simple, but over-the-top-good recipe comes in. You let the slow cooker perfectly caramelize a whole mess of onions while you are at work for the day. When you come home, you toss those with a few other ingredients and in the time it takes you to boil pasta, you have dinner.

A food processor is the easiest way to slice this volume of onions. And you also could do that the night before, then bag them and toss them in the refrigerator until the next morning so all you have to do is empty them into the slow cooker.

As for the sun-dried tomatoes and arugula, you can improvise according to your family's tastes.

Any vegetables or cooked meats can be substituted. Sausage even could be added to the slow cooker in the morning.

Creamy Caramelized Onion Pasta

Using your slow cooker to cook onions will give you a delicious and sweet flavour of caramelized onions, and you can do so many at one time! Use them for this creamy pasta dish or make them on their own to create other delicious dishes.

Ingredients:

- 1.5 kg (3 lb) onions, thinly sliced
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
- 500 g (1 lb) fettuccine pasta
- 1 tub (250 g/8 oz) creme fraiche
- 1 container (142 g/5 oz) baby arugula
- 250 ml (1 cup) thinly sliced sun-dried tomatoes
- Salt and ground black pepper

Preparation:

1. In slow cooker, combine onions and olive oil. Stir well to coat, then cover and cook on High for 6 to 8 hours or until well browned and caramelized.
2. In large pot of boiling salted water, cook pasta for about 9 minutes or until tender but firm. Drain well and return to pot. Add onions, creme fraiche, arugula and sun-dried tomatoes. Stir over medium heat for about 2 minutes or until arugula just begins to wilt. Season with salt and pepper to taste. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOK.CA)

Drink of the week

Orange Pear Refresher

Colourful and refreshing, this drink will cool your palate and leave a citrus flavour.

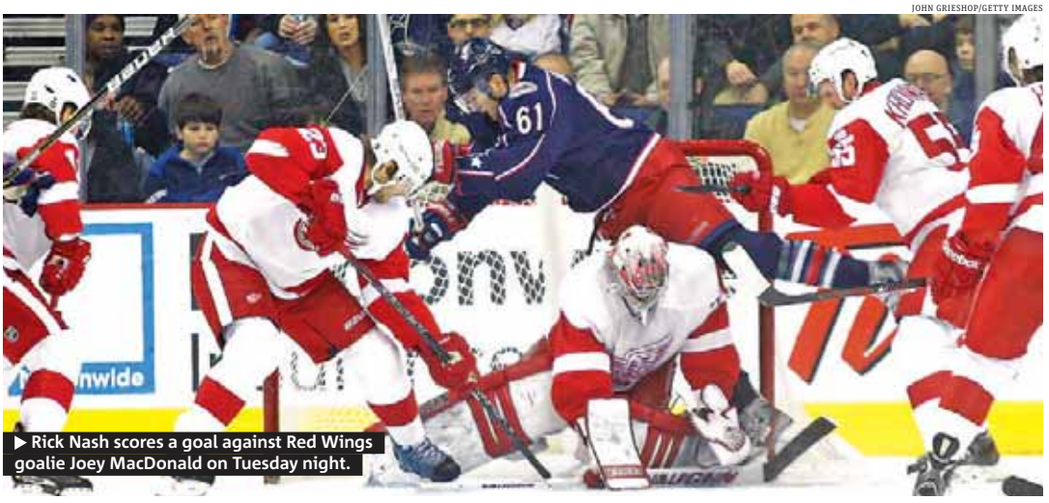
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) fresh lemon juice
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) simple syrup
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) pear infused vodka
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) sparkling orange beverage

Fill tall glass with ice and pour in lemon juice, vodka and simple syrup. Top with orange beverage and serve. Garnish with lemon wedge and fresh mint.

SAN PELLEGRINO ARANCIATA

4 sports

JOHN GRIESHOP/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Rick Nash scores a goal against Red Wings goalie Joey MacDonald on Tuesday night.

‘That was the best thing for the team’

Nash says he asked for trade from Blue Jackets to help with rebuilding

Rick Nash had difficulty sleeping on Monday night, after it became known that he had asked the Columbus Blue Jackets to trade him.

After spending nine seasons as the face of a losing franchise, Nash is now uncertain of the reaction from fans who have idolized him but now might see him as just another opportunist.

“I’m not too sure what to expect,” he said Tuesday in his first public comments after it was revealed he had asked to be dealt. “I’ve been with these fans my whole career here. I love them no matter what. They’re a great fan base, loyal. They’ve been patient with this organization and with this team. No matter what the reception is I’ll always have a soft spot in my heart for our fans.”

General manager Scott Howson first mentioned Nash’s trade request on Monday, shortly after he failed to trade the four-time All-Star.

“He obviously wants a change,” said Howson, who was first approached by Nash in January about being moved.

Most people had thought the team, with the worst record by far in the NHL at 18-37-7, had first floated the possibility of dealing its best player. So it was a shocker that it was Nash, who has long said how much he loves Columbus and the Blue Jackets, who wanted out.

Nash was adamant — repeating the same phrase several times — that he not only wanted to help his own career but also help the organization that drafted him No. 1 and helped him become one of the top stars in the NHL.

“I was informed by management that there was a rebuild, a reshape, in the team and I personally felt I could be a huge part of that towards bringing assets in,” he said. “In my view, that was the best thing for the team, the organization, and personally for my career.”

One major problem will be building a team around a captain who has already said he’d prefer to be elsewhere.

He said he wanted to remain as captain, at least for the final 20 games of this season. Team officials gave no indication that he would lose the “C” on his jersey.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Urine collector defends himself

The person who collected Ryan Braun’s urine sample that tested positive for elevated levels of testosterone said he followed the collection program’s protocol.

Dino Laurenzi Jr. issued a statement Tuesday confirming he handled the sample submitted following a playoff game on Oct. 1.

He says he has been a collector for Comprehensive Drug Testing since 2005 and has taken more than 600 samples for Major League Baseball’s drug-testing program.

“At no point did I tamper in any way with the samples,” Laurenzi said.

Laurenzi’s name emerged last week after the NL MVP’s 50-game suspension was overturned, making Braun the first big leaguer to successfully challenge a drug-related penalty in a grievance.

Laurenzi said he stored Braun’s sample in his basement in accordance with CDT’s protocol because there was “no FedEx office located within 50 miles of Miller Park that would ship packages that day or Sunday.”

Braun, however, has said at least five FedEx locations within 5 miles were open until 9 p.m. and there also was a 24-hour location.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

News that hockey great Jean Beliveau was hospitalized following a stroke has prompted an outpouring of affection and get-well wishes for the legendary centreman, beloved as much for his gracious personality as his graceful skating.

Even the prime minister wished Beliveau well.

“Mr. Beliveau is a great Canadian and a remarkable ambassador for our national sport,” Stephen Harper said in an emailed statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scan code for more sports news.

Flames should have dealt a blue-liner

THE HOCKEY NEWS

BRIAN COSTELLO
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The window of opportunity for the Flames to better themselves for the future closed with a slam on Monday.

While it is logical and admirable for the organization to continue its quest for a playoff spot — even though the aging lineup is spewing oil — management should have tried to walk the line between the present and future.

The optimist thinks the Flames can surge in the final 20 games, grab a playoff spot and maybe something magical can happen in April. The pessimist? We won’t go there. The realist? Perhaps the flagging ship can be righted, earn the No. 7 or 8 seed, but become easy pickings for Vancouver or Detroit.

So was it really necessary for the Flames to have eight or nine defencemen for even the best-case scenario? What I’m getting at here is the Flames should have dealt pending UFAs Cory Sarich and/or Scott Hannan to a contender. The return probably wouldn’t have been anything more than a third or fourth round draft pick, but for an organization lean on prospects, it should have been done.

Calgary has Anton Babchuk in the press box, Brett Carson and Clay Wilson in Abbotsford, and Chris Butler due to return from injury. Are those players that much of a drop-off from Sarich and Hannan? While the duo have been serviceable, they are not going to be the determining factors in whether Calgary makes the post-season.

Didn’t GM Jay Feaster sign Babchuk to a two-year $5-million deal in the off-season? Didn’t he consult with coach Brett Sutter on this one? Is Babchuk’s poor start the only chance he’s going to get?

The Hockey News recently put together its Future Watch issue, which ranks organizations on the calibre of prospects and 21-and-under NHLers (the issue is due out in early March). The Flames, who have done poorly at the draft in the past decade, ranked 29th according to a panel of 14 scouts.

While there are few impressive names at the top of Calgary’s prospect list — Sven Baertschi is the only one in the top 75 — the depth is not there.

Playoffs or not, the Flames have to start turning around this listing battleship one of these years. It should have happened at trade deadline.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-NY Rangers	61	40	15	1	5	169	124	86	21-7-0-2	19-8-1-3	7-2-0-1	W2
d-Boston	61	37	21	1	2	200	140	77	18-11-1-1	19-10-0-1	4-5-0-1	L1
d-Florida	62	30	20	5	7	158	172	72	15-8-1-7	15-12-4-0	6-3-0-1	W3
Pittsburgh	62	36	21	2	3	198	163	77	20-8-2-0	16-13-0-3	6-3-0-1	W3
Ottawa	65	34	23	6	2	199	192	76	17-12-2-1	17-11-4-1	7-2-1-0	W2
Philadelphia	61	34	20	2	5	203	187	75	14-10-1-4	20-10-1-1	4-5-0-1	W1
New Jersey	62	35	23	1	3	172	170	74	16-12-0-3	19-11-1-0	5-4-0-1	L3
Washington	63	32	26	2	3	172	178	69	21-8-0-2	11-18-2-1	4-5-0-1	W3
Winnipeg	65	30	27	4	4	166	186	68	19-10-1-3	11-17-3-1	5-3-1-1	L2
Toronto	63	29	27	4	3	187	195	65	16-12-3-2	13-15-1-1	1-8-1-0	L5
Tampa Bay	63	29	28	3	3	176	213	64	19-9-1-1	10-19-2-2	6-4-0-0	W1
Buffalo	62	27	27	4	4	154	180	62	16-11-3-4	11-16-1-0	5-3-1-1	L1
NY Islanders	63	26	28	6	3	147	182	61	14-14-5-0	12-14-2-2	4-5-1-0	L2
Carolina	63	24	26	7	6	166	190	61	17-12-0-5	7-14-7-1	5-1-2-2	W1
Montreal	64	24	30	2	8	164	177	58	11-14-2-6	13-16-0-2	3-6-0-1	L5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Vancouver	64	40	16	1	7	204	156	88	18-6-0-4	22-10-1-2	6-1-1-2	L2
d-Detroit	64	42	19	1	2	202	151	87	26-3-1-1	16-16-0-1	7-2-0-1	W1
d-Phoenix	63	33	21	3	6	166	156	75	17-10-2-2	16-11-1-4	9-0-0-1	W6
St. Louis	63	39	17	1	6	161	126	85	26-4-1-3	13-13-0-3	7-3-0-0	W3
Nashville	64	37	20	3	4	181	165	81	21-7-2-3	16-13-1-1	5-3-0-2	L1
Chicago	64	33	24	4	3	193	189	73	21-7-1-3	12-17-3-0	4-6-0-0	L3
San Jose	61	32	22	4	3	177	159	71	18-9-2-0	14-13-2-3	3-6-1-0	L2
Dallas	63	33	26	1	3	165	171	70	18-12-0-2	15-14-1-1	5-3-1-1	W4
Colorado	64	33	27	3	1	168	173	70	18-13-0-1	15-14-3-0	7-2-1-0	W4
Los Angeles	64	29	23	5	7	138	137	70	16-13-0-4	13-10-5-3	3-5-1-1	W1
Calgary	63	28	24	5	6	151	173	67	16-9-1-3	12-14-4-3	4-2-2-2	L4
Minnesota	63	28	26	2	7	139	167	65	15-11-1-3	13-15-1-4	3-6-0-1	L1
Anaheim	63	27	26	4	6	161	178	64	16-13-2-0	11-13-2-6	6-2-0-2	L1
Edmonton	62	25	31	2	4	167	184	56	16-11-2-2	9-20-0-2	4-5-1-0	W1
Columbus	63	18	38	2	5	146	212	43	11-18-1-2	7-20-1-3	3-6-1-0	L3

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Florida 5 Toronto 3
Tampa Bay 2 Montreal 1
Phoenix 2 Vancouver 1 (SO)
Ottawa 1 Boston 0
Carolina 4 Nashville 3
Los Angeles 4 Minnesota 0
Washington 3 N.Y. Islanders 2 (OT)
Detroit 5 Columbus 2
Philadelphia at San Jose
Monday's results
Edmonton 5 Winnipeg 3
St. Louis 3 Calgary 1
Colorado 4 Anaheim 1
Nashville 2 Los Angeles 1
N.Y. Rangers 2 New Jersey 0
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Pittsburgh at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Chicago, 8 p.m.
St. Louis at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Buffalo at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
New Jersey at Boston, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Montreal, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Florida at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Columbus at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Calgary at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
St. Louis at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Buffalo at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Friday's games
New Jersey at Washington, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Calgary at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

PANTHERS 5, MAPLE LEAFS 3

First Period
1. Florida, Goc 6 (Wolski) 0:13
2. Florida, Santorelli 8 (Skille, Gudbranson) 2:21
Penalty — Madden Fla (holding stick) 18:58.
Second Period
3. Toronto, Kessel 32 (Phaneuf, Lupul) 10:46 (pp)
4. Florida, Santorelli 9 (Fleischmann, Campbell) 13:54 (pp)
Penalties — Lupul Tor (hooking) 3:43, Bergenheim Fla (interference) 5:26, Weiss Fla (goaltender interference) 9:32, MacArthur Tor (boarding) 12:36.
Third Period
5. Florida, Garrison 14, 4:38 (pp)
6. Toronto, Kulemin 7 (Phaneuf, MacArthur) 8:48
7. Florida, Weiss 16 (Bergenheim) 9:49
8. Toronto, Lupul 24 (Kessel, Phaneuf) 17:22 (pp)
Penalties — Garrison Fla (hooking) 0:11, Liles Tor (interference) 3:40, Phaneuf Tor (tripping) 13:21, Garrison Fla (slashing) 17:16.
Shots on goal

Florida	4	9	10	—23
Toronto	9	7	15	—31

Goal — Florida: Theodore (W,17-11-6); Toronto: Reimer (L,11-11-4).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Florida: 2-4; Toronto: 2-5.
Referees — Stephen Walkom, Kyle Rehman.
Linesmen — Pierre Champoux, David Brisebois.
Attendance — 19,420 (18,819) at Toronto.

LIGHTNING 2, CANADIENS 1

First Period
1. Tampa Bay, Stamkos 44 (Purcell, St. Louis) 8:42
2. Montreal, Desharnais 13, 16:02
Penalty — Commodore TB (interference) 10:37.
Second Period
3. Tampa Bay, Hall 2 (Malone, Wyman) 0:28
Penalties — Emelin Mtl (interference) 5:56, Staubitz Mtl (interference, misconduct), Malone TB (unsportsmanlike conduct, fighting, game misconduct) 8:16, Connolly TB (tripping) 15:29, Kaberle Mtl (hooking) 17:27.
Third Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Staubitz Mtl, Labrie TB (fighting) 3:47, Weber Mtl (high-sticking) 9:37.
Shots on goal

Montreal	9	9	6	—24
Tampa Bay	9	7	6	—22

Goal — Montreal: Price (L,22-24-9); Tampa Bay: Garon (W,21-16-4). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Montreal: 0-3; Tampa Bay: 0-3.
Attendance — 18,878 (19,204) at Tampa, Fla.

COYOTES 2, CANUCKS 1 (SO)

First Period
1. Vancouver, Edler 8 (Salo, D.Sedin) 14:56 (pp)
Penalties — Bieksa Vcr (high-sticking) 1:08, Vrbata Pho (holding) 8:55, Lapierre Vcr (interference) 12:08, Rozsival Pho (hooking) 14:46.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Hansen Vcr, Aucoin Pho (slashing) 8:18, Tanev Vcr (tripping) 11:03.
Third Period
2. Phoenix, Whitney 19 (Yandle, Aucoin) 9:43
Penalties — Hanzal Pho (hooking) 1:18, Kassian Vcr (hooking) 13:04.
Overtime — No Scoring.
Penalties — None.
Shootout — Phoenix wins 2-0
Van (0) — Edler, miss; Raymond, miss. **Pho** (2) — Whitney, goal; Vrbata, miss; Boedker, goal.
Shots on goal

Vancouver	12	8	15	5	—40
Phoenix	12	12	11	0	—35

Goal — Vancouver: C.Schneider (L,14-5-1); Phoenix: Smith (W,29-14-7). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Vancouver: 1-3; Pho: 0-4.
Att. — 16,691 (17,135) at Glendale, Ariz.

SENATORS 1, BRUINS 0

First Period
1. Ottawa, Karlsson 15 (Michalek, Spezza) 14:44 (pp)
Penalties — Rolston Bos (tripping) 9:41, Seguin Bos (interference) 13:06, Foligno Ott (holding) 16:56.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalty — Lucic Bos (slashing) 12:39.
Third Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Condra Ott (holding stick) 5:13, Foligno Ott (tripping) 9:37, Gonchar Ott (hooking) 17:51.
Shots on goal

Ottawa	13	18	7	—38
Boston	7	8	17	—32

Goal — Ottawa: Lehner (W,3-0-0); Boston: Thomas (L,26-13-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Ottawa: 1-3; Boston: 0-4.
Attendance — 17,565 (17,565) at Boston.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Malkin, Pgh	37	41	78
Stamkos, TB	43	32	75
Giroux, Pha	23	49	72
Spezza, Ott	28	42	70
H.Sedin, Vcr	13	53	66

Last night's games not included

TENNIS

ATP-WTA

ABIERTO MEXICANO TELCEL

At Acapulco, Mexico
Men's Singles — First Round
Carlos Berlocq, Argentina, def. Gilles Simon (3), France, 7-6 (5), 6-3.
Albert Ramos, Spain, def. Juan Monaco (6), Argentina, 5-3 retired.
Lukasz Kubot, Poland, def. Daniel Garza, Mexico, 6-1, 6-3.
Santiago Giraldo, Colombia, def. David Nalbandian, Argentina, 6-2, 6-2.
Jeremy Chardy, France, def. Rui Machado, Portugal, 7-6 (4), 6-3.
Stanislas Wawrinka, Switzerland, def. Juan Carlos Ferrero, Spain, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Fernando Verdasco (8), Spain, def. Filippo Volandri, Italy, 6-0, 6-2.
Women's Singles — First Round
Roberta Vinci (1), Italy, def. Silvia Soler-Espinosa, Spain, 6-2, 7-6 (5).
Anna Tatishvili, Georgia, def. Eva Birnerova, Czech Republic, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.
Magdalena Rybarikova, Slovakia, def. Alexandra Dulgheru (5), Romania, 2-6, 7-5, 7-6 (3).
Johanna Larsson (6), Sweden, def. Sesil Karatantcheva, Bulgaria, 1-6, 6-4, 6-3.
Sara Errani (3), Italy, def. Irina Falconi, United States, 6-1, 6-1.
Estrella Cabeza Candela, Spain, def. Lourdes Dominguez Lino, Spain, 6-4, 6-4.
Edina Gallovits-Hall, Romania, def. Greta Arn, Hungary, 7-5, 7-5.

WTA

BMW MALAYSIAN OPEN

At Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Singles — First Round
Jarmila Gajdosova (4), Australia, def. Kathrin Woerle, Germany, 1-6, 7-6 (2), 7-5.
Jill Craybas, United States, def. Yurika Sema, Japan, 6-4, 1-6, 6-4.
Eleni Daniilidou, Greece, def. Sania Mirza, India, 6-2, 1-6, 6-4.
Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, def. Anne Keothavong (8), Britain, 6-4, 7-5.
Kristyna Pliskova, Czech Republic, def. Iryna Bremond, France, 6-0, 6-2.
Peng Shuai (3), China, def. Yvonne Meusburger, Austria, 6-1, 4-6, 6-2.
Ayumi Morita (6), Japan, def. Nudnida Luangnam, Thailand, 6-4, 6-0.
Karolina Pliskova, Czech Republic, def. Chang Kai-chen, Taiwan, 6-3, 6-2.
Casey Dellacqua, Australia, def. Bojana Jovanovski, Serbia, 6-0, 6-2.
Jelena Jankovic (2), Serbia, def. Caroline Garcia, France, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 7-6 (2).

ATP

DELRAY BEACH INTERNATIONAL

At Delray Beach, Fla.
Singles — First Round
Ernests Gulbis, Latvia, def. Alejandro Falla, Colombia, 6-4, 6-1.
Philipp Kohlschreiber (5), Germany, def. Olivier Rochus, Belgium, 6-1, 6-4.
Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, def. Marin Cilic (2), Croatia, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.
Steve Darcis, Belgium, def. Viktor Troicki (3), Serbia, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.
Ivan Dodig, Croatia, def. Matthias Bachinger, Germany, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.
John Isner (1), United States, def. Jesse Levine, United States, 6-4, 7-6 (15).
Xavier Malisse, Belgium, def. Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, 7-6 (3), 6-3.
Tim Smyczek, United States, def. Jurgen Melzer, Austria, 6-4, 2-6, 7-5.
Kevin Anderson (7), South Africa, def. Austin Krajicek, United States, 6-1, 6-4.
Marinko Matosevic, Australia, def. Ivo Karlovic, Croatia, 6-3, 6-4.
Alex Bogomolov Jr. (6), Russia, def. Michael Yani, United States, 6-3, 6-1.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

DETROIT TIGERS—Agreed to terms RHP Collin Balester, RHP Luis Marte, RHP David Pauley, INF Danny Worth and OF Clete Thomas on one-year contracts.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

CHICAGO CUBS—Named Bryan Robinson vice president of human resources.
HOUSTON ASTROS—Agreed to terms with RHP Jorge De Leon and OF J.B. Shuck on one-year contracts.

BASKETBALL

NBA

MIAMI HEAT—Signed C Mickell Gladness to a second 10-day contract.

FOOTBALL

NFL

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Signed LB Ahmad Brooks to a six-year contract extension with through the 2017 season.

CFL

HAMILTON TIGER-CATS—Named John Zamberlin linebackers coach.
SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS—Signed QB Colt Brennan and QB Drew Willy.

HOCKEY

NHL

BOSTON BRUINS—Recalled C Max Sauve from Providence (AHL) on an emergency basis.
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Recalled F Brandon Bollig from Rockford (AHL).
DETROIT RED WINGS—Recalled D Doug Janik from Grand Rapids (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Recalled F Mike Angelidis, F Trevor Smith, F Pierre-Cedric Labrie and D Evan Oberg from Norfolk (AHL). Reassigned F Alex Hutchings from Florida (ECHL) Everblades to Norfolk.
WASHINGTON CAPITALS—Recalled F Keith Aucoin from Hershey (AHL).

AHL

SPRINGFIELD FALCONS—Acquired F Nathan Longpre from Chicago for future considerations.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Miami	27	7	.794	—
d-Chicago	28	8	.778	—
Indiana	22	12	.647	5
d-Philadelphia	21	14	.600	6½
Orlando	22	13	.629	5½
Atlanta	20	14	.588	7
New York	17	18	.486	10½
Boston	16	17	.485	10½
Milwaukee	14	20	.412	13
Cleveland	13	19	.406	13
Detroit	11	25	.306	17
New Jersey	11	25	.306	17
Toronto	10	24	.294	17
Washington	7	27	.206	20
Charlotte	4	28	.125	22

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Oklahoma City	27	7	.794	—
d-San Antonio	24	10	.706	3
d-L.A. Clippers	20	11	.645	5½
Dallas	21	14	.600	6½
Houston	21	14	.600	6½
L.A. Lakers	20	14	.588	7
Memphis	19	15	.559	8
Portland	18	16	.529	9
Denver	18	17	.514	9½
Minnesota	17	17	.500	10
Utah	15	18	.455	11½
Golden State	13	18	.419	12½
Phoenix	14	20	.412	13
Sacramento	12	22	.353	15
New Orleans	8	26	.235	19

d — division leaders ranked in top four positions regardless of record.

Last night's results
Indiana 102 Golden State 78
Philadelphia 97 Detroit 68
Chicago 99 New Orleans 95
Boston 86 Cleveland 84
Houston 88 Toronto 85
Milwaukee 119 Washington 118
New Jersey 93 Dallas 92
Sacramento 103 Utah 96
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Orlando at Washington, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Portland at Denver, 9 p.m.
Houston at Utah, 9 p.m.
Chicago at San Antonio, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Oklahoma City at Orlando, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Miami at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

SOCCER

EXHIBITION

Home nations listed first
Yesterday's results
At Limmasol, Cyprus
Armenia 0 Serbia 2
At St. Gallen, Switzerland
Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 Brazil 2

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5 drive

Motor and battery

The 107-kilowatt (143-horsepower) motor directs its 184 pound-feet of torque to the front wheels for a maximum 134 km/h through a single-speed transmission.

The lithium-ion battery pack is located beneath and behind the rear seat that, due to its bulk, cuts down on the hatchback's available stowage space while adding significant heft.

Cabin

The cabin features considerable advanced technology. There's a special version of the MyFord Touch information system that includes battery-charging state, expected remaining range and how much energy is being consumed by the vehicle's accessories.

There's more. At the end of every trip, the display screen shows total distance driven and the additional distance gained through regenerative braking. Put simply, when you brake, the battery pack is being charged.

Range

To maintain the battery pack at its optimum operating temperature, Ford uses a liquid heating and cooling system to help the car deliver on its 160-kilometre-range claim — maximum range, not average — but that will still require a light touch of the pedal and avoiding excessive use of electrical accessories such as the climate control.

And who knows what kind of range you'll get in a good old-fashioned Canadian winter.

BASE PRICE: $42,700

▶ There's no explanation why the battery pack is in the back and the charge port is at the front, other than it's close to the driver's door and in plain sight.

Focusing on an electric

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

Trading fossil-fuel fill-ups for electrical current flowing from a charging station is still a new idea, but Ford is providing a way for you to get in on the ground floor.

Unlike the Chevrolet Volt, Nissan Leaf and Mitsubishi iMiEV that are all proprietary designs, Ford developed the new Focus Electric using the existing Focus platform and body, although a distinctive nose and a charging port door on the driver's-side front fender are dead giveaways as to the car's unique propulsion. And it's that system — moreover, the way it charges — that makes the Focus Electric unique.

Ford claims that a full charge will require three to four hours, or about half the time required by the benchmark Nissan Leaf.

This is due to circuitry designed for higher throughput as opposed to significant differences in battery design. Three hours is a relatively short amount of time that also requires a 240-volt charging station. Otherwise, you can count on a lengthy 18-20 hours from a standard 120-volt outlet using a cord that's included, which is clearly not the way to go for busy or impatient people. A quick calculation puts the cost of driving 100 kilometres at about $2. That's about half of what even the best hybrid can do and there's no tailpipe emissions at all with the Focus Electric.

▶ Batteries are heavy. The Focus Electric weighs about 300 kilograms more than a regular Focus.

▶ The dash's well-woven combination of chunky bits sets the tone for the interior. It's detail that you would be hard pressed to find in a luxury car 10 years ago.

Focus Electric

What you should know about the 2012 Ford Focus Electric:

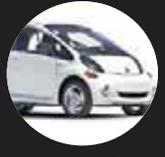
- **Type:** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact hatchback.
- **Engine (hp):** 107-kilowatt electric (143).
- **Transmission:** Single speed.
- **Market position:** Joins a handful of similarly powered models. Like any niche vehicle, electrics are not for everyone, nor are they intended to be. City dwellers with short runs and easy access to power supplies are best suited.
- **Mileage:** L/100 km equivalent (city/hwy) N/A.

By comparison

Nissan Leaf
Base price: $40,400
Roomy hatchback gets high marks for functionality, if not for elegance.

Chevrolet Volt
Base price: $43,000
Backup gasoline generator makes this electric the most practical.

Mitsubishi iMiEV
Base price: $34,700
Small, good range, OK top speed and the cheapest big-name electric.



WHEELBASE MEDIA

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Used Aveo will appeal mostly on price

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

The Chevrolet Aveo has been given the axe to clear the way for the new Chevrolet Sonic — meaning the automaker's former entry-level model is now fully into the used vehicle marketplace.

The last generation Aveo was on sale from 2004 to 2011 and available in hatchback or sedan variants. Look for features like folding rear seats, remote access, power accessories and cruise control.

Note that the LS models were more basic, while LT models were more loaded.

2004-11 Chevrolet Aveo/Aveo5

Engine

All Aveo models got a 1.6-litre, 103-horsepower four-cylinder driving the front wheels via a four-speed automatic or five-speed manual.

What owners like

Most Aveo owners speak highly about surprising levels of interior roominess, low operating costs, relative fuel efficiency and responsive steering.

What owners dislike

Cheap interior trim, a light or "flimsy" feel, soft suspension, cupholder size and placement, and easily-chipped paint round out the most common complaints.

Common issues

Numerous instances of broken timing belts have been reported by owners online — so be sure the timing belt on the model you're considering isn't overdue for a change. If it snaps and fails while you're driving, your trip will stop dead in its tracks. A timing belt is a part that needs to be changed preemptively ahead of failure to keep your engine running. Make sure the automatic transmission is easy to shift into and out of gear, too.

Verdict

Aveo is far from the most reliable compact car in its segment — though relatively inexpensive repairs, cheap operating costs and low resale values will make it an affordable option worth considering for low-mileage drivers.

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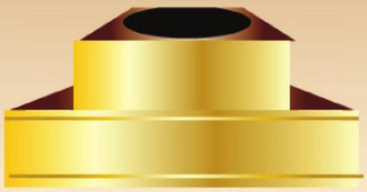

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THERE'S THE GARAGE... WHERE'S THE CAR?

MIKE GOETZ/FOR METRO

▶ Does your garage actually have a vehicle in it? Or is it a man cave?

AUTO PILOT

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE
@METRONEWS.CA

High housing prices, combined with many baby boomers downsizing their abodes, have conspired to make useable floor space harder to come by in most homes, and more at a premium.

We're used to vehicles being persona non grata at certain venues, like pedestrian parks, islands, nature reserves, etc. But actual garages?

Yes, that's right. More and more homeowners are opting to make their garages a car-free zone.

Jordan Oliveira of Canadian Tire broke the news to me this past week. Oliveira is Canadian Tire's point man for storage solutions, and noted that the company has been aware of this trend for a while, and has increasingly been introducing more storage and "man cave" products to Canadian Tire's garage-orientated line-up.

He said that high housing prices, combined with many baby boomers downsizing their abodes, have conspired to make useable floor space harder to come by in most homes, and more at a premium.

Too premium, I guess, for something like a 1994 Dodge Cavalier. Let it sleep in the rain and the snow. I need to store my collection of Star Wars memorabilia.

And when the guys come around, they find it more comfortable and relaxing in the garage, than the pretty, front "sitting" room — the one with all those small, accent pillows.

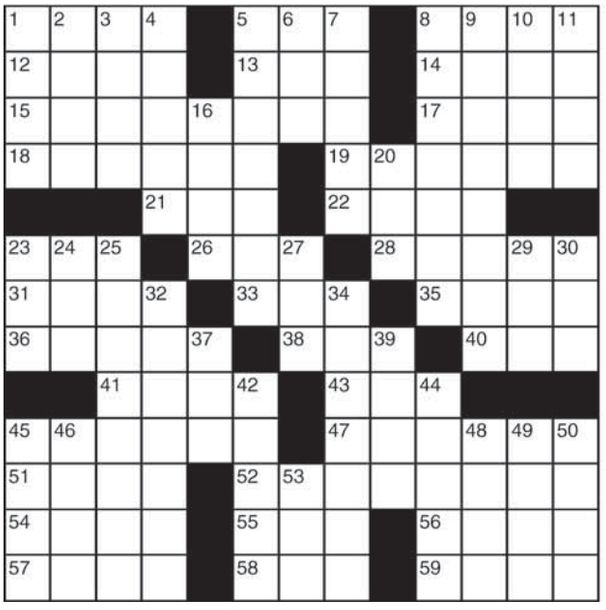
I kind of did a double take when Jordan first mentioned the car banishment trend, but really shouldn't have even batted an eye.

For one thing, the last time I was in my neighbour Tony's garage, I did notice a distinct lack of Acura MDX, and a distinct abundance of other things, like drum kit, bass guitar and amplifier, small fridge, dart board, stools and one old sofa, iPod dock with four large speakers, and a fake fish aquarium (the kind you plug in to make the background go around and around, while the fish stay fixed forever in time and space). I guess just repeating the reality in my head — No cars! In the garage! — was too paradoxical for my brain to handle at that particular moment.

I greatly enjoy my time in Tony's garage, so I'm not suggesting we reverse this trend, only that we never forget the car's pioneering role in the creation of the garage.

More cars are parked out in the cold now, but they're entirely the reason why we now have a cool space at our disposal, that is accent-pillow free.

Crossword



Across

1 Syringe, for short
5 TiVo, for example
8 iPhone downloads
12 Really long time
13 Midafternoon, on a sundial
14 Crooner Jerry
15 Firm adherent to a cause
17 Ontario neighbor
18 Scabbard
19 Stocking holder
21 Apiece
22 Kill
23 Swiss mountain
26 Treasure seeker's aid
28 Spry
31 Water vessel
33 "Golly!"
35 Oklahoma city
36 Hannah Montana portrayer Miley
38 Pismire
40 Bygone Pontiac muscle car
41 Walked (on)
43 Stomach
45 Actress Headly
47 Frightened
51 Continental coin
52 Bit
54 Have coming
55 Peculiar
56 Reedy
57 Seeks restitution
58 Pirouette pivot
59 Spud's buds

Down

1 Chance occurrences
2 "Why not?"
3 Sweat outlet
4 Available
5 Symbol of limpness
6 By way of
7 "Lord of the —"
8 Par
9 Whooping it up
10 Ballet bend
11 Prognosticator
16 Detail
20 Chicken — king
23 "The View" network
24 Myrna of Hollywood
25 Path-filled garden
27 Shooter ammo
29 Torched
30 Tokyo's old name
32 Strong likes
34 Fencing call
37 Bart, to Homer
39 Clump of grass
42 Station
44 Hackneyed
45 The Bee —
46 Hawaiian feast
48 Needing liniment
49 Nastase of tennis lore
50 Lairs
53 Fuss

▶ Yeterday's answer

W	A	L	L		V	E	G		C	L	A	P
A	L	I	A		I	D	A		A	I	D	E
V	A	M	P	I	R	E	S		M	E	A	N
E	R	E		M	E	N		S	P	U	R	N
			Q	U	O		D	E	F			
B	O	G	U	S		P	R	A	I	S	E	D
A	R	I	A		J	O	Y		R	O	M	E
T	A	N	G	L	E	D		B	E	L	O	W
			M	A	T		H	R	S			
R	E	M	I	X		D	U	O		E	M	U
H	A	I	R		H	O	T	W	I	R	E	S
E	S	N	E		A	R	C		V	I	S	E
A	Y	E	S		M	A	H		Y	E	A	R

Sudoku

5			3		2			9
4	7	1				3	2	8
		2	9		3	7		
3								2
		9	4		5	6		
9	2	6				8	7	4
1			8		7			5

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

9	8	7	2	3	6	4	1	5
4	1	3	7	8	5	9	6	2
2	6	5	9	1	4	8	3	7
1	3	2	4	5	7	6	9	8
6	7	4	3	9	8	2	5	1
8	5	9	6	2	1	7	4	3
7	9	8	5	4	3	1	2	6
3	4	6	1	7	2	5	8	9
5	2	1	8	6	9	3	7	4

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

my everlasting love, prince charming, My sweet darling, Ti amo, Je t'aime, Wo Ai Ni, I love you always, forever and ever. Mi Manchi every day and every night! Sweetheart, take good care of yourself, just a kiss on yr sweet lips my love, you are my everything, you are my destiny... See you always in my dreams tonite and every nite... **YOUR ETERNAL LOVE, STRONG N FAITHFUL PRINCESS**

boy at the salad bar
Hey you! That's right. I don't even know your name but i've been admiring you from a far :(I work in the store across from yours , so please look over sometime and just say hi ! :) **GIRL NEXT DOOR**

Honeypot
To my brand new husband, I love you and I am so happy to be on this wonderful journey with you. Thank you for everything.
HONEY BALL

A look at the weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Min -13°	Min -10°	Min -14°
Max -3°	Max -8°	Max 0°

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta". **WEEKDAYS 5:30AM**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
Today's good news will make you feel a lot better about your financial situation. Always be positive.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
What happens today will inspire you to give a project you have been on the verge of ending another go. It can be made to work.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
What you see or hear today will remind you that compared to other people, you are quite lucky.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22
Do you believe in yourself? The only thing that is holding you back, Cancer, is the idiotic idea that you are not good enough. You are.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23
There's no point trying to predict how people are going to act because they are on a completely different wavelength to you.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
You seem very positive in your outlook at the moment, which is good, but you still need to back it up with hard work.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
Good news regarding your money situation will cheer you up, but it's only a short-term development.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Listen to what friends have to tell you today, even if it isn't what you were hoping to hear.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21
Do something out of the ordinary today, something even your friends think is outrageous.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
You will see something that everyone else has missed. Act quickly and turn it to your advantage.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
News from afar may not exactly delight you but neither is it the end of the world. Keep things in perspective and look for ways to benefit.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
Someone you meet on your travels could become the most important person in your life over the next few months. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

MICHAEL CONROY/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

You write it!

WIN!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Wednesday's Metro.

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TD Square
Westbrook Mall
Westhills Towne Centre
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6100 MacLeod Trail S
4623 Bow Trail SW
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